

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 08285 311350Z
ACTION SS-25

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: POLITICAL WORKING GROUP
MEETING, MAY 30, 1978

CTB MESSAGE NO. 225

1. SUMMARY. THE POLITICAL WORKING GROUP MET ON MAY 30 WITH SENATOR KENNEDY IN ATTENDANCE. THE DELEGATIONS REVIEWED THEIR POSITIONS ON THE THREE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES REMAINING IN BRACKETS IN THE COMPOSITE TEXT ON OSI INITIATION UNDER THE SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT, BUT THERE WERE NO SPECIFIC STEPS TOWARD RESOLUTION. THE GROUP BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONS ON OSI FOR THE MULTILATERAL TREATY. END SUMMARY.

2. SENATOR KENNEDY ATTENDED THE MEETING OF THE POLITICAL WORKING GROUP ON MAY 30. HE DISCUSSED HIS LONG-TERM INTEREST IN AND COMMITMENT TO A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN, STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF VERIFICATION AND NOTING THAT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GENEVA 08285 311350Z

THE SENATE'S RECEPTIVITY TO THE TREATY WOULD DEPEND ON THE VERIFICATION PROVISIONS NOW BEING DISCUSSED. TIMERBAEV (USSR) RESPONDED WITH A GENERAL STATEMENT STRESSING THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF A CTB WAS A MAJOR GOAL OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. BIRCH (UK) SIMILARLY STRESSED UK GOVERNMENT'S DEDICATION TO GOAL OF CTB.

3. NEIDLE (US) REVIEWED US VIEWS ON THE THREE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES REMAINING IN BRACKETS IN THE COMPOSITE TEXT OF THE SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT PERTAINING TO THE INITIATION OF ON-SITE INSPECTIONS (CTB 223). BIRCH (UK) SUPPORTED US DEL, BUT THE SOVIETS WERE NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ANY MOVEMENT ON THESE ISSUES AND IT WAS AGREED TO RESUME DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES LATER.

4. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO THE LANGUAGE OF THE MULTILATERAL TREATY THAT WOULD GOVERN ON-SITE INSPECTIONS REQUESTED BY OTHER TREATY PARTIES. TIMERBAEV SUGGESTED THAT WORK COULD PROCEED MORE QUICKLY IF WE DID NOT BECOME BOGGED DOWN IN DRAFTING DIFFICULTIES OCCASIONED BY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE USSR'S APPROACH THAT WE DRAFT ACTUAL TREATY TEXT AND THE US SIDE'S PREFERENCE FOR KEY ELEMENTS. HE NOTED THAT THE US DEL COULD WORK ON THE BASIS OF DRAFTING AN ACTUAL TREATY TEXT AND THERE COULD BE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE QUESTION OF HOW TO PRESENT A TEXT TO THE CCD AT THE END OF THE TRILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE LEFT TILL LATER WITHOUT PREJUDICE ON THE MERITS OF THE QUESTION. BIRCH (UK) ALSO URGED THAT THE US DEL BEGIN WORK ON THE BASIS OF TREATY LANGUAGE, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT QUESTIONS RE PRESENTATION TO THE CCD COULD BE CONSIDERED LATER. NEIDLE SAID THAT THE US DEL APPRECIATED THAT IT MIGHT BE A MORE COMPLEX JOB TO NEGOTIATE A COMMON TEXT WITH SOME DELEGATIONS PRE-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 GENEVA 08285 311350Z

FERRING ACTUAL TREATY LANGUAGE WHILE ANOTHER WAS SUGGESTING LANGUAGE FOR KEY ELEMENTS. THEREFORE, IN VIEW OF THE APPEALS THAT HAD BEEN MADE BY BOTH DELEGATIONS AND IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE WORK ON THE TREATY, THE US DEL WOULD BE PREPARED TO BEGIN DEVELOPMENT OF A TREATY TEXT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE UNDERSTANDING EXPRESSED BY THE OTHER DELS THAT CCD PRESENTATIONAL ASPECTS COULD BE RETURNED TO LATER. JOHNSON

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